



Father Danny Murphy is a retired Pastor from Brooklyn NY. A gifted man with a God given talent to inspire and God's gift to us at Holy Cross Church in Vero Beach Florida. This is just one of his inspirational homilies.

## Fr. Danny Murphy – Funeral Homily – October 25, 2016

Today, we are dealing with death; it's why we have gathered together here in this place. I have to ask myself, How do I deal with death? How do you deal with death? Whether it is the death of a dear one or in the future about my own death – it is not an easy question. Almost always, when I deal with this question, I think about the reality that someday, in some church people will gather in my memory for my funeral Mass. Now don't get nervous, but someday people will gather in your memory for your funeral Mass. The only thing we don't know is the day nor the hour! God reserves that knowledge to himself. It is an indisputable reality that we will all die, so how do we deal with death? Allow me to offer a way to deal with death that has helped me and I hope will help you as well. Two thoughts come to mind: First of all, even though I don't know the day nor the hour when I will die, while I still can, let me do as much good in this life as I can, while I am still able to do so. Let me do kindness now because someday it will be too late. Here is a recent example: Earlier this month a priest back in my parish in Brooklyn died. He was 84 and in relatively good health up to last August when his health began a steady decline. Everyone back there knows I am here at Holy Cross and I received phone calls and notes about that priest. The notes said things like: I was going to call him, visit him, take him to lunch but you know what? They DIDN'T call him, visit him or take him to lunch and now it's too late! It is a lesson repeated over and over, do good NOW while we can still do it. Here is a favorite scriptural story; I'll give it to you in a nutshell: This farmer goes out to sow seeds all over. Most of

these seeds bore no fruit at all, but some did good. Some produced 30, 60 or even 100 fold. You don't know about bearing fruit, all you have to do is to sow seeds. The parable continues: After the farmer dies his sowing, he then simply goes to bed! His work is done! Now it is up to the sun, soil and rain to take over. So just do good and leave the growth up to God, then you can watch the ball game or go to bed. My second thought is that in all honesty, as I grow older I continue to realize how short life really is. Where DO the years go? An unnamed saint once said: Of all gifts, God has given us Death – it is the only gift that brings us to God. Of course the kingdom of God is described in many ways: there will be no more pain, suffering, crying out, tears nor pain. There will only be joy and peace. The mystics describe heaven as "Endless ecstasy!" St. Paul quotes Isaiah when he says: "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard what God has in store for us..." The psalmist says: "What is the sum of years: 70 or 80? What is that compared to eternity. Let us pray for peace for all who have died and pray that our own eventual death will also be in peace.